



ANIMAL PLACE

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6055 '94 AUG 16 10:03

9 August 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: **Docket numbers: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Animal Place and all its members, I urge you to take action to prevent human illness that is associated with *Salmonella enteritidis* infection.

Although I understand that you are contemplating putting warning labels on egg cartons and regulating egg refrigeration temperatures, this is insufficient to protect the public. A *major source* of *Salmonella enteritidis* infection is through hens who are subjected to the industry *standard* of 'forced molting'. It is irrefutable that forced molting, whereby hens are deprived of food for up to 2 weeks and sometimes water up to 3 days, causes extreme metabolic distress. This increases infection of the hens with *Salmonella enteritidis* and increases the shedding of the organisms, resulting in contamination of eggs.

*The most important step you could take would be to **ban forced molting**, treating it as a public health issue. You have the jurisdiction to ban any 'farm' practice which might cause injury to the public.*

You were petitioned to ban forced molting in April of this year. **I urge you to grant this petition without delay.**

With reverence for all life.

Nedim C. Buyukmihci, V.M.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

NCB:ztp

96P-0418



C199



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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C199*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C200*
96P-0418/ *C199*